

USE OF AN AMERICAN THESIS IN BASIC ORIENTATION

We have found this booklet to be increasingly useful in our courses, even with college graduates of reputable universities. You may be interested to know that it is available.

Since 1953 the Basic Orientation course has included in its curriculum exercises concerned with an examination of American society, its values, traditions and meaning. The primary aim of these exercises has been to stimulate Agency employees to evaluate and understand better our way of life, and to become more articulate in expressing their understanding of the social, cultural, economic and political characteristics of this nation. For employees generally such an examination, made individually, provides a sense of purpose in the understanding of the role of intelligence in our national framework. For overseas personnel who must deal in official and social situations with foreign nationals, there is need for having firm ideas and knowledge about our government and our society. In these situations our employees should be able to discuss intelligently the society they represent. In an operational sense, persuading foreign nationals to work with us because they have goals coincident to ours places a responsibility on our field personnel to have definite ideas of the meaning, values and traditions of our society and the directions in which they feel it is moving. Significant, too, is the fact that CIA personnel, called upon to counter Communism which claims an internally consistent framework of ideas, must be able to refute these ideas. These are major reasons why the Office of Training concerns itself in the orientation process with an examination of our society.

The manual, An American Thesis, was prepared by the staff of Basic Orientation to serve as a stimulus to students and as a basis for discussion. It is used in the course in conjunction with two seminar exercises in which students are called upon to articulate their views of American society in response to specific questions which foreign nationals might raise. Student reaction to these exercises has been consistently favorable.

Credit for the creation of An American Thesis goes to the staff of Basic Orientation and principally to [REDACTED] who selected the materials and wrote the accompanying narrative. The editing and preparation of the present edition was done by [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
MATTHEW BAIRD  
Director of Training

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

Director of Training  
Room 11, [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NO.

DATE

3 August 1956

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TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	TELEPHONE	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D			
1. DD/S	125 East			HGL		Attachment to memo held by HGL.
2. [REDACTED]				[REDACTED]		
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Document No. 1

No Change in Class. ☒

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Class. Changed to: TS

Next Review Date: 8-9

Auth: HR 70-3

Date: 1-9-77 By: [REDACTED]